

HISTORY
OF
ST. PETER'S CHURCH,
GERMANTOWN, PHILADELPHIA.

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ST. PETER'S CHURCH
GERMANTOWN,
IN THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA, PA.

PREPARED BY
REV. THEODORE S. RUMNEY, D.D., AND CHARLES BULLOCK,
UNDER RESOLUTION OF THE VESTRY.

GERMANTOWN,
PHILADELPHIA.
...
1897.

*O ALMIGHTY God, who hast built thy Church upon the foundation of the Apostles and Prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner-stone; Grant that, by the operation of the Holy Ghost, all Christians may be so joined together in unity of spirit, and in the bond of peace, that they may be an holy temple acceptable unto thee. * * * * * And grant that the course of this world may be so peaceably ordered by thy governance, that thy Church may joyfully serve thee in all godly quietness; that so they may walk in the ways of truth and peace, and at last be numbered with thy saints in glory everlasting; through thy merits, O blessed Jesus, thou gracious Bishop and Shepherd of our souls, who art with the Father and the Holy Ghost one God, world without end. Amen.*

ST. PETER'S CHURCH

GERMANTOWN, PHILADELPHIA.

Organized November 6th, 1873.

Formally opened St. Thomas' Day, December 21st, 1873.

Incorporated March 2d, 1874.

INCORPORATORS.

Henry H. Houston,
Vincent L. Bradford,
Edmund A. Crenshaw,
Stephen B. Kingston,
M. S. Shapleigh,

Col. Joseph Clark,
Joseph A. Schaeffer,
A. B. Shipley,
Charles Bullock,
F. W. McDowell,

Henry Dennison,
Joseph B. Barry,
Naaman K. Ployd,
Walter H. Bonsall,
Edward Bedlock.

1874.

Rector—Rev. Theodore Sill Rumney, D. D.

Rector's Warden—Henry H. Houston.

Accounting Warden—Edmund A. Crenshaw.

Secretary—Edward Bedlock.

Vestry—Joseph B. Barry, Edmund A. Crenshaw, Edward Bedlock, Marshall S. Shapleigh, Charles Bullock, Stephen B. Kingston, Joseph A. Schaeffer, Henry H. Houston.

1897.

Rector—Rev. Theodore Sill Rumney, D. D.

Assistant—Rev. J. Marchant Hayman.

Rector's Warden—Stephen Greene.

Accounting Warden—Joseph S. Perot.

Secretary—Samuel W. Wray.

Vestry—Charles Bullock, Joseph S. Perot, Stephen Greene, Samuel W. Wray, William T. Gummey, William C. Rehn, Samuel B. Bowen, Edwin D. Mullen.

Assistants of St. Peter's Church, 1885-1897—Rev. T. P. Ege, 1885-1888; Rev. Douglas I. Hobbs, 1889; Rev. Henry B. Bryan, 1889-1891; Rev. Wm. H. Cavanaugh, 1891-1893; Rev. J. Marchant Hayman, 1893.

HISTORY OF ST. PETER'S CHURCH

GERMANTOWN.

IN February, 1870, the Rev. Theodore Sill Rumney, D. D., was unanimously elected Rector of Christ Church, Germantown, and left his former charge at White Plains, N. Y., to assume his duties in Germantown, May 1st, 1870, and was favorably received by the congregation and Vestry.

In the year 1872 a number of friends of Rev. Dr. Rumney, communicants of Christ Church, consulted together as to the advisability of founding a new church and parish. A number of meetings were held, at which the subject was carefully considered, and when Mr. Henry H. Houston suggested that the western side of Germantown would afford the most promising field for parochial work, his views met with general approval.

Mr. Houston then offered to give a lot of ground at the corner of Wayne and Harvey Streets on which to erect a church and such other buildings for parish purposes as the future might render desirable. The value of the lot of ground was estimated at that time at \$10,000. This generous offer was gratefully accepted.

The financial question involved in the erection of the church buildings was not overlooked. The deep interest manifested by Mr. Houston in the undertaking led to the belief that he was willing to assume a large share of this responsibility, when assured of the hearty co-operation of a sufficient number to promise success. While no *pledges* were made by him, it is safe to say that without his active interest and financial aid the prosecution of the work at that time would have been a serious difficulty, and this would have been increased by the panic of September, 1873.

Mr. Houston, on his own responsibility, had plans for a church building prepared by Mr. Geo. W. Hewitt, architect. These plans were considered carefully, and, after some alterations, were adopted.

The consent of the Bishop and Standing Committee of the diocese having been obtained, and also the concurrence of the several rectors in Germantown, for the building of the church, a meeting was held on the eighth day of April, 1873, the following persons being present: Henry H. Houston, E. A. Crenshaw, S. B. Kingston, E. Bedlock, J. B. Barry, M. S. Shapleigh, J. A. Schaeffer, A. B. Shipley, S. W. Wray, A. J. Denny, T. R. Ash and Charles Bullock.

At this meeting it was resolved to proceed with the erection of a church, and a building committee was appointed consisting of Messrs. H. H. Houston, S. B. Kingston and E. A. Crenshaw.

Ground was broken for the church building May 20th, 1873. Wayne Avenue at that time was but partially graded, and was not paved. Between Rittenhouse and Harvey Streets there was on the eastern side but one house, that of Mr. Harvey, and between Harvey and Tulpohocken Streets the house of Mr. Bodine, at the corner of Walnut Lane. On the western side were the dwellings of Mr. Moffly, Mr. Crenshaw and Mrs. Pauline E. Henry.

The lot of ground on which the church was to be erected required a large amount of grading. The contract for this was taken by David Pooly, and that for the building was awarded to Adam A. Catanach.

On June 30th the corner-stone was laid by the Right Reverend William Bacon Stevens, D.D., L.L.D., Bishop of Pennsylvania, in the presence of a large number of clergy and laity, the building being named Saint Peter's Church, Germantown, Philadelphia. An address was made by the Rev. Henry J. Morton, D. D.

On November 6th, 1873, the incorporators met at the house of Mr. S. B. Kingston, Green and Cheltenham Avenue.

Present—Messrs. Houston, Kingston, Barry, Bedlock, Crenshaw and Bullock. Mr. Houston was called to the chair, and Mr. Bedlock acted as secretary. On motion of Mr. Bedlock, Mr. Houston was nominated and elected Church Warden.

The Rev. Theodore S. Rumney, D.D., formerly Rector of Grace Church, White Plains, N. Y., but then of Christ Church, Germantown, was unanimously elected

Rector of the new parish. Dr. Rumney accepted the election, and, resigning his position as Rector of Christ Church, entered upon his duties at St. Peter's December 15th, 1873.

A house at the north-west corner of Greene and Harvey Streets was rented by the Vestry as a rectory.

On Sunday, December 21st, 1873 (St. Thomas' Day), the Bishop of the Diocese formally opened the church, the Rector assisting him in the service, and in the administration of the Holy Communion.

The foundations of the Sunday-school building were laid in the fall of 1873. On the 1st of March, 1874, the Bishop was again present with the parish, upon the first occupancy of the same, and to administer confirmation to twenty-one persons.

A charter of incorporation was granted by the Court of Common Pleas for the County of Philadelphia, on the second day of March, 1874, by which the following persons were constituted Wardens and Vestrymen :—

Wardens—Edmund A. Crenshaw and Henry H. Houston.

Vestrymen—Joseph B. Barry, Edmund A. Crenshaw, Edward Bedlock, Marshall S. Shapleigh, Charles Bullock, Stephen B. Kingston, Joseph A. Schaeffer and Henry H. Houston.

At the Convention held in May, 1874, the church was admitted into union with the Diocese of Pennsylvania.

The first choir was a voluntary one, composed of Miss Mary Barry, soprano; Miss Belle Barry, contralto; Mr. Edward Peabody, tenor, and Mr. Edward Barry, bass. Mr. Adolphus Glosse was organist.

Much credit is due this choir for their faithful services voluntarily rendered for two and one-half years.

A communion service, composed of silver and gold keepsakes, family relics, &c., cheerfully given by the congregation, and valued at between four and five hundred dollars, was first set apart to its holy use on All Saints' Day, 1874. On the same day an altar desk of brass was used by the Rector, given as a memorial by Mrs. Robert R. Oakley; also two large brass vases, the gift of Mrs. Edward Bedlock, with two smaller memorial vases by Mrs. T. S. Runney.

In the fall of 1874, a large well-toned bell was placed in the tower of the church, having been paid for by the contributions of the Sunday-school children, assisted by friends.

In 1874 and 1875, additional grading was done about the church and buildings at a cost of \$156.66, which was paid by the church.

On November 17th, 1874, the indebtedness of the church was reported to the Vestry to be \$33,000.

On December 7th, 1874, the Vestry directed two mortgages to be given to Mr. Houston, one for \$5000 and one for \$25,000.

January 5th, 1875, the Accounting Warden reported the issue of the mortgages to Mr. Houston, and that he had conveyed the property to the corporation of St. Peter's Church.

In March, 1875, Mr. Houston proposed, with the concurrence of the Vestry, to place a memorial window in the chancel of the church, in memory of his daughter Eleanor.

The window was ordered at Sharp & Sons', in New York, consisting of three lancets, with rose window.

The largest and central lancet represented the angel at the open tomb, with uplifted hand, declaring to the women, "He is not here, He is risen!"

The north lancet, the adoration of the shepherds; the south, Christ blessing the little ones, and above all, the rose window, the recording angel with surrounding seraphs.

The whole, beautiful in design, harmonious and rich in color, was greatly admired.

It was placed in the chancel October 30th, 1875, but the same night a portion of the scaffold was blown with destructive force against the middle lancet, necessitating its repainting and burning.

The whole was unveiled the following Thanksgiving Day, November 25th.

In the year 1878 a window was placed in the church in loving memory of Madame Clement, by her pupils and teachers. The window not proving satisfactory, it was removed last year, and Miss Clement proposes to replace it as soon as possible by another, which it is hoped will be more acceptable in design and construction.

In the year 1879 a fontuary, in loving memory of Eleanor Houston, was given to the church, and has been in constant use in the administration of the sacrament of baptism.

The first inroad upon the pleasant relations of the Vestry was occasioned by the death of our valued friend and coadjutor, Mr. Marshall S. Shapleigh, which occurred February 2d, 1879.

At a special meeting of the Vestry of St. Peter's Church, held at the rectory, February 3d, 1879, the following resolutions were adopted:—

We have sustained a great loss in the removal by death of Mr. M. S. Shapleigh, a communicant and Vestryman of St. Peter's Church from its organization ; therefore,

Resolved, That we, the Rector, Wardens and Vestrymen, do bow with reverent submission to the will of that Divine Lord who has called him from us to the nobler service of the Triumphant Church ; and while with chastened grief we recognize the loving providence which has afflicted us, we at the same time accept the admonition

to be also ready, and to be more abundant in labors for Christ and His Church.

Resolved, That we express to the family of the deceased our sincere sympathy, and pray that He who is alone able to comfort them may be their all-sufficient support in this hour of severest trial.

Resolved, That the members of the Vestry will attend his funeral in a body.

Resolved, That a copy of these resolutions be sent to the family, and that they be published in the *Episcopal Register* and the *Churchman*, and recorded in the minutes of the Vestry.

(Signed)

S. K. KILLÉ,

Secretary pro tem.

On December 5th of the same year, 1879, we were called to part with another of our faithful and devoted Vestrymen, Mr. Stephen B. Kingston.

At a special meeting of the Vestry, held at the rectory, December 7th, the following minute was adopted:—

Again is the hand of the Lord laid heavily upon us. Again are we called to mourn the loss of a faithful and devoted Vestryman. In the death of Mr. Stephen B. Kingston, one of the founders of our parish, Vestryman, and for several years Clerk of the Vestry and Treasurer of the Sunday-schools, the church loses a true friend and a faithful supporter of its interests.

“Resolved, That we, the Rector, Wardens and Vestrymen of St. Peter’s Church, receiving this renewed chastisement from the Lord, do bow to His divine will, in humble

recognition of His wisdom and love in afflicting us. He has taken him from our earthly communion and fellowship to the more blest communion of the Triumphal Church, and we shall miss his affectionate companionship and feel the loss of his counsel and aid. We account this additional bereavement as an Advent call to quicken our zeal and to summon us to more enlarged endeavor for the church of Christ and greater faithfulness even unto death.

Resolved, That we tender to the family our sincere sympathy in their bereavement, and will attend in a body his funeral.

Resolved, That a copy of this minute be sent to the family and that it be published in the *Episcopal Register* and the *Churchman*.

(Signed)

S. K. KILLÉ,
Secretary pro tem.

On July 8th, 1880, the Vestry sanctioned the organization of a vested choir, under the direction of the Rector and the Committee on Music. On September 19th of this year, the vested choir was placed in the chancel, alterations having been made, the organ removed, and stalls provided for their accommodation, at the cost of \$1268.43.

Sunday, November 17th, 1880, was a memorable day for the parish. It was one of those delightful days of the late autumn, when a brief return of the glow of summer warms the heart and makes it bound with the renewal of its joys. On that bright morning the Bishop of the Diocese, assisted by the Bishop of Maine, the Right Rev. H. A. Neely, D. D., consecrated the church and set it apart for God's especial service.

Of the reverend clergy there were present, participating in the service, the Rev. John Rodney, Rector Emeritus of St. Luke's Church, Germantown; the Revs. Charles R. Bonnell, Wm. J. Clark, T. H. Cullen, E. Weil, William Ely, Samuel Durborrow, Dr. Charles R. Hale, and Mr. J. A. Gilfillan, Missionary to the Indians.

Bishop Stevens preached one of his most effective sermons, from the words, "Strength and beauty are in His sanctuary." The church was densely crowded, and many remained to conclude the grand service with the Holy Communion.

Previous to the consecration of the church (November 17th, 1880), Mr. Houston entered satisfaction on the records for the two mortgages, amounting to \$30,000, without receiving from the church any part of the principal of the same, or accrued interest.

The foresight of Mr. Houston in selecting the site for the church was made apparent soon after the erection of the buildings. The opening of the Chestnut Hill Branch of the Pennsylvania Railroad, June 11th, 1884, gave an impetus to the improvement of this suburban district, and the vacant lots on Wayne Avenue were soon covered with comfortable and attractive dwellings. Later, the avenue was graded and paved with brick; car tracks were laid (afterwards trollied), and frequent and rapid communication was established with other parts of Germantown, and all parts of the city.

The congregation of the church rapidly increased, and in a few years it was self-sustaining.

As the minutes of the church are incomplete in an account of the cost of erecting the church and school buildings, and the furnishing of the same, and as a record is desirable in the history of the parish, information has been obtained from such sources as were deemed reliable.

Mr. Henry H. Houston generously charged himself with the financial responsibility of the erection and furnishing of the buildings. With his well-known indisposition towards publicity in his benefactions, he made no statement to the Vestry of the amount of his donations to the church, and he left no private account of the same.

The following statement will give the cost of these buildings as near as can be ascertained:—

CHURCH.

Contract price, including pews.....	\$26,000 00
Carriage porch between church and school buildings.....	1,500 00
Organ.....	2,600 00
Introduction of gas and fixtures, water and plumbing, heating apparatus.....	1,282 00
Architect.....	1,050 00
	<hr/>
	\$32,432 00

SCHOOL BUILDINGS.

Contract price.....	\$10,000 00
Furnishing (estimated).....	350 00
Fixtures for gas and heating (estimated).....	250 00
	<hr/>
	10,600 00
Grading of lot.....	1,672 00
	<hr/>
	\$44,704 00
Value of lot of ground given by Mr. Houston.....	10,000 00
	<hr/>
	\$54,704 00

The amount contributed by the congregation for the buildings can not be accurately ascertained. It is estimated to have been, exclusive of donations from Mr. Houston, \$6275.

On March 8th, 1881, the Parish Guild was organized by the Rector, with its varied chapters, which has been in successful and efficient operation to the present time. The chapters were—1st, Attention to Strangers; 2d, Young Men; 3d, Young Women; 4th, Sunday-schools (two Sunday-schools being in operation for twenty years); 5th, Libraries; 6th, The Sanctuary and Altar Chapter; 7th, Church Decoration; 8th, Care of the Sick and Needy; 9th, Missionary Sewing Chapter; 10th, Employment; 11th, Mothers' Meeting; 12th, Sewing School; 13th, Week-day Choir; 14th, Finance. To these it soon became necessary to add others, such as the Vestment Chapter, the Choir Association, and auxiliaries among young men, women and boys.

The Delta Chapter of St. Peter's Guild, composed of men and boys, was an efficient agency until finally merged into the Vested Choir and Choir Association.

The Brotherhood of St. John began its influential work for boys September 30th, 1881, and is to-day a useful instrumentality in elevating the boyish tendencies of its members. It has added to its other instrumentalities for good the discipline and training of military drill.

The Young Women's Chapter was organized October 19th, 1881, and has ever since been a most helpful agency in church work.

BUILDING OF THE RECTORY.

Ground was broken for the building of a rectory May 17th, 1883, but owing to the ground having been newly made, in grading the lot, the depth of the excavation required for the foundations was found to be so great that the building was for a time postponed.

On June 5th, 1883, Mr. Houston informed the Vestry of his willingness to contribute \$6000 towards the erection of a rectory, provided the congregation would contribute a further sum of \$2500.

The generous offer of Mr. Houston was accepted, and a building committee appointed for that purpose, consisting of Messrs. Houston, Crenshaw and Schaeffer. The erection of the building was given to Mr. Henry Harrison.

On July 24th, 1883, the building of the rectory was resumed, and on the 1st of May, 1884, the Rector moved into the house erected by the parish on the ground adjoining the church and school buildings.

The cost of the building was as follows:—

Paid to contractor.....	\$10,049 24
“ “ architect.....	338 00
“ “ grading.....	652 74
“ “ introduction of gas.....	55 99
“ “ gas fixtures.....	80 00
“ “ insurance during building.....	142 00
“ “ sundry expenses.....	323 23
	<u>\$11,641 20</u>

The contributions from the congregation for building the rectory amounted to.....	\$2,124 00
Contribution from St. Peter's Guild.....	2,015 00
	<u>\$4,139 00</u>

On May 12th, 1884, the Vestry was informed that there was a deficit of \$2000 in settling the accounts for the rectory. The amount of this deficit was advanced by Mr. Houston, and a committee was appointed to solicit subscriptions for the repayment of the same.

In the summer of 1885, the floors of the church were tiled at a cost of eight hundred dollars, the congregation raising the amount for the front and middle aisle, and Mr. Houston contributing the sum needed for laying the side aisles.

The chancel floor had been previously tiled, when the alterations were made for the vested choir, by a member of the church, who wrought with her own hands to provide a fund necessary for this and for tiling the floor of the tower.

The "Little Sisters of the Church," a chapter organized in 1888 for young girls, has worked for several years in promoting missionary and parish interests.

The Brotherhood of St. Andrew, organized January 30th, 1889, has proved a most helpful auxiliary in extending the church's influence among young men.

During the winter of 1890 and 1891, a choir-rail with brass gates was placed in the church in memory of Charles Shipley, a member of the choir, who died July 15th, 1890. This was done by the choir and brotherhoods.

In 1890, Mr. Houston offered to build an extension to the vestry-room, which was gratefully accepted by the Vestry.

On Tuesday, September 13th, 1890, the Rector, in the

name of the Blessed Trinity, put the first spade into the ground, and turned the first sod, for an addition to the choir and robing room, to be a room for the clergy, with an entrance into the chancel. October 10th, 1890, the cornerstone was laid. The building was a thank-offering from Mr. and Mrs. H. H. Houston for deliverance from all dangers during a long-continued journey. It was first occupied January 11th, 1891. The architect was Mr. George Hewitt; the builder, Mr. Henry Harrison. Fifteen hundred dollars were also contributed by Mr. Houston to the new organ then being erected by Mr. Haskell.

The new organ was placed in the church, January, 1891, at the cost of \$3000, less \$500 which was allowed for the old one.

On Wednesday evening, January 21st, 1891, Bishop Whitaker, with the Rector, Rev. Theodore S. Rumney, and a number of the clergy, in the presence of a large congregation, with appropriate services, solemnly blessed the clergy-room, and the new organ just placed in the church.

A memorial window was placed in the church by Mr. John Henry Zeilin, in March, 1891, to the sacred memory of his mother.

In January, 1892, the church was frescoed, through the generous liberality of Mr. Houston.

In February, 1892, electric lighting was introduced into the church, new combined electric and gas fixtures taking the place of the old fixtures, and dispensing with the lights in the body of the church. The cost of wiring the

church, and of the new light fixtures in church and chancel, was \$1162.

On the evening of All Saints' Day, November 1st, 1893, at the fourteenth annual choir and brotherhood service, fifteen new tubular bells, placed in the tower of the church by Miss Jennie Riegel, in memory of her father and sister, were first rung. A service of benediction was rendered by the Rector, assisted by several clergymen and a large congregation.

In 1893, a successful effort was made to establish a free kindergarten, which has been continued to the present time.

On Christmas Day of the same year, a handsome credence, placed in the chancel by Mr. George Holland as a memorial to his wife, was first used by the Rector. It was much more convenient than the one set up when the church was erected. A memorial hanging lamp was given by Mrs. M. Moore, in 1893, which is now suspended over the brass lecturn, which was given in the year 1880 as a memorial to her husband and daughter, Mrs. Arthur Scott, by Mrs. Lewis Taws, mother of Mrs. Moore.

For more than fourteen years it was not our painful duty to chronicle the death of any officer of our church.

While many friends and helpers had been called away, while, by resignation or removal, the places of several Vestrymen had to be filled, yet it was not until February 19th, 1894, that death again entered the circle of our Vestry, and removed from us our esteemed Accounting Warden, Mr. Edmund A. Crenshaw.

The following tribute to his memory was ordered by the Vestry at its meeting the day following his removal from us :—

At a meeting of the Vestry held at the rectory, February 20th, the following minute was adopted :—

On Monday, February 19th, 1894, it pleased Almighty God, in His wise providence, to remove from our midst our valued friend and co-worker, Mr. Edmund A. Crenshaw, the Accounting Warden of St. Peter's Church since the formation of the parish in 1873.

We, the Rector, Rector's Warden and Vestrymen, deeply sensible of the loss sustained by us and the parish in the death of Mr. Crenshaw, while bowing in meek submission to the will of our Heavenly Father, can but voice the sentiment of the community that a revered friend, an honored citizen, a faithful servant of Christ and a devout member of His church has passed from us, leaving an unsullied record and many hearts to grieve over their loss. His long and faithful service in the church bears testimony to the sincerity of his attachment to it, and of his fidelity to its great Head.

We shall miss his wise counsel—his friendly co-operation—and his ardent interest in the welfare of the parish.

To the members of his family we tender our warmest Christian sympathy, and while sharing their sorrow would unite with them in the comfortable hope which enables us to bless God's Holy Name, that our friend and brother has "departed this life in His Faith and Fear." We pray that all may be enabled to say, with calm resignation: "The Lord gave, and the Lord hath taken away. Blessed be the name of the Lord."

THEODORE S. RUMNEY,
Rector.

JOSEPH S. PEROT,
Secretary of the Vestry.

The twenty-first anniversary of the founding of the parish of St. Peter's Church was observed December 23d, 1894, by a special service. Appropriate music was rendered, and in lieu of the usual sermon, the Rector made an address describing the details of the growth of the parish, and giving much interesting matter connected therewith. He said :—

On Friday last, St. Thomas' Day, our church attained its majority, it being then twenty-one years since we were privileged to occupy it. To-day we thank God and take courage. During these years there have been seasons of discouragement, as well as of hopeful promise, but never have we felt that the Lord and His Spirit failed as a real support. We have lost, by death, two of our Vestrymen, Marshall S. Shapleigh and Stephen B. Kingston, as well as our faithful Accounting Warden, E. A. Crenshaw, who served the church in that capacity with increasing interest for more than twenty years.

Like all things temporal, there have been changes, both in the congregation and in the various offices of the church. By means of death, removal and other causes, only three of the original eight Vestrymen—Messrs. Houston, who has been Rector's Warden all these twenty-one years; Bullock and Schaeffer—are still members of that body. The major portion of the congregation to-day was not with us when our parish was formed. The increase has brought to us many friends, who have become identified with and earnest supporters of the parish. We shall hope for continued activity and zeal as we pass on in the worship and service of the Lord.

Another and most unexpected loss followed soon after the death of Mr. Crenshaw. Mr. Henry H. Houston was suddenly taken away in the seeming fullness of strength and vigor, in the early morning of June 21st, 1895. The universal sentiment was voiced in the following expression of their deep sense of bereavement, by the Rector, Warden and Vestrymen :—

At a meeting of the Vestry held at the rectory, on Tuesday evening, June 25th, the following minute was adopted :—

Entered into rest, soon after midnight, Friday morning, June 21st, Henry H. Houston, for more than twenty-one years the Rector's Warden of St. Peter's Church.

We, the Rector, Accounting Warden and Vestrymen of the church, desire to place upon record an expression of our deep sense of the very great loss the parish has sustained by his removal from us, and of the sorrow we feel in the severing of the most pleasant relations between us, which have been unusually harmonious and delightful for so many years.

To Mr. Houston, under God, does the parish owe its origin, and that financial support which insured its success and permanence from the beginning. Ever ready with his wise counsel—ever open-handed with his liberal gifts—ever helpful with his timely service, we recognize the immense power he has been to the parochial and missionary operations of our church. But his munificence was not confined to his own parish. The church throughout the land—institutions, religious and secular—the poor, the struggling, the unfortunate, by the scores—rise up and bless his memory. He lived with an open heart and a

scattering hand. God's endowments of mind and riches were not bestowed upon him in vain. He was ever ready to do the will of the Divine Bestower. Unostentatious, retiring, full of sympathy for all in need and distress, the record of his bountiful goodness to all who sought help from him, either by direct application or by the plea of their apparent necessity alone, is registered in grateful memories upon thankful hearts, and in the great Book on High, rather than in the journals of the world; for he sought to give in the sight of God and not of men.

Though building and completing St. Martin-in-the-Fields, with its parish building and rectory, at Wissa-hickon Heights, his interest in St. Peter's Church never failed. He continued to act as Rector's Warden, attending regularly upon the services of the church, and being active in its interests.

The whole community realizes that a great benefactor has gone to his well-earned rest; and we, his coadjutors, in our loss and bereavement, can only look for counsel and help unto Him who gave and has now taken away. Severe as the blow is to us, we do not forget the bitterness of sorrow entailed upon those of his own household.

For them we ask the grace of God's Holy Spirit, to bind up the broken hearts, and to comfort them in this time of sorrow and tears with the peace which Christ alone can give.

Resolved, That a copy of this memorial be sent to the family of our friend and brother, and be published in *The Churchman* and *The Church Standard*.

SAMUEL W. WRAY,

Secretary of the Vestry.

THEODORE S. RUMNEY,

Rector.

Mr. Samuel K. Killé, was an active member of the Vestry from January 5th, 1875, to March 27th, 1894, when he declined a re-election on account of failing health. He passed from earth to life July 29th, 1895.

At a meeting of the Vestry held at the rectory, October 19th, the following minute was adopted:—

Passed from earth to Life Eternal, July 29th, 1895, Samuel K. Killé, a devout communicant of this church, and a member of its Vestry for more than nineteen years, until compelled to resign from increased feebleness about two years since.

Mr. Killé was an *active* member of the Vestry so long as his health enabled him to fulfill the duties of his office; and to the last retained an ardent interest in the life and well-being of the parish. Uncomplaining under misfortune, patient in sickness, strong in the faith of our Lord Jesus Christ, trustful to the end, we realize that his removal from us is to him a blissful exchange.

Resolved, that a copy of this minute be sent to his widow, and that the same be spread upon the minutes.

SAMUEL W. WRAY,
Secretary.

Three months had hardly passed when another of our charter members of the Vestry was summoned from earth to the rest of paradise: the gentle, trusting and retiring Joseph A. Schaeffer, who died October 30th, 1895.

The following tribute to a worthy man was put on record by the Vestry :—

At a meeting of the Vestry held at the rectory, December 6th, the following minute was unanimously adopted, viz. :—

God has removed another Vestryman of our church, who was one of the charter members of the corporation, Mr. Joseph A. Schaeffer.

A man of devout life, a warm-hearted friend, deeply interested in the welfare of the church, and esteemed by all who knew him.

He was for years an efficient Bible-class teacher, was true and faithful as an officer, giving personal service, and to the utmost of his ability promoted the good of the church in many ways not generally known, yet ministering to the comfort of God's people.

Quiet and unobtrusive, with simplicity of faith and sincerity of action, his life was such as to commend him to all.

We realize that a worthy member of our Vestry has been called to the higher service of the church above, and desire to express to his widow and family our deep sympathy in their loss, commending them in their sorrow to the gracious Lord he delighted to serve.

Resolved, That a copy of this minute be sent to the widow and also published in *The Churchman* and *Church Standard*.

SAMUEL W. WRAY,
Secretary.

Only three of the charter members of the Vestry are now living, Mr. Charles Bullock alone remaining as an active officer of our church.

Mr. Edward Bedlock and Mr. Joseph B. Barry, in the early life of the parish, tendered their resignations, which were regretfully accepted.

Other gentlemen who have served as Vestrymen, but resigned because of removal or impaired health, are Mr. Henry H. Kingston, Mr. Nathaniel B. Crenshaw, Mr. R. Singleton Peabody, Mr. F. S. Champion and Dr. George Purviance.

In February, 1895, a beautiful and expensive chancel rail was placed in the church by the family of the late Edmund A. Crenshaw, Accounting Warden of the church from its organization to the time of his death, February 19th, 1894, as a memorial of him and his daughter Rebecca R., who died October 27th, 1889. A prayer of blessing was offered by the Rector.

The former chancel rail, the gift of Miss Morrill, was sent to the chapel of Sewanee Divinity School, Sewanee, Tenn.

In January, 1896, St. Peter's Club for men was organized to bring them together in the interest of the church, with the hope of increasing the staff of church workers in the parish.

It has in good degree answered the purpose for which it was originated, and needs only a more energetic fostering care of our people.

During February, 1896, the rooms of the Sunday-school, Bible-class and infant-school were greatly improved through the kindness of Mr. Stephen Greene. The colored

glass in the windows was removed, and replaced by a lighter tinted corrugated glass, admitting ample light and diffusing it in the rooms. The infant-school room was improved by the removal of the terrace and benches, the construction of the floor on a uniform level, furnishing comfortable chairs and supplying suitable carpeting.

On June 9th, 1896, workmen began to tear down the chancel walls preparatory to the erection of a new chancel by Mrs. H. H. Houston, in memory of her late husband, Henry Howard Houston, Rector's Warden from the organization of the parish to the time of his death, June 21st, 1895.

The plans were drawn by Mr. Theophilus P. Chandler, architect, of Philadelphia, under whose supervision the building was completed.

Ground was broken by the Rector, June 15th, and the work was completed so that on Sunday, January 24th, 1897, the beautiful and costly chancel was first occupied, the Rector preaching an appropriate sermon.

The new chancel is designed in the spirit of Gothic work of the thirteenth century, a period when the cathedrals of England—Lincoln, Wells and Salisbury—were built.

The chancel is nearly forty feet in length and twenty-eight feet in width, the walls twenty feet high, and the east gable to the base of the cross forty feet high.

The corners are strengthened with heavy buttresses, stepping back as they ascend, accentuated with steep gables, terminating with delicately carved finials.

The sill mouldings continue as string courses around the chancel, stepping up and down to connect the windows and buttresses.

The jambs of the windows are moulded with slender columns, supporting capitals carved with interlacing leaf and tendril. The capitals carry the Gothic arches, that are richly moulded with hollow and fillet, catching the light at varying angles.

The intricate tracery of the windows blends and balances with the mouldings of the jambs and arches, all making a frame of stem and bended bough, with lace-like carving for the setting of the stained glass.

The walls are built of Chestnut Hill stone of a soft gray color ; the mouldings and tracery are cut from the dove-colored Indiana stone, the tone harmonizing with the gray.

The chancel is entered from the church through a stone arch nineteen feet wide and twenty-six feet high, the arch carried on clustered columns. The vaulted roof, the deeply recessed windows and the walls screened with slender stone columns, give an idea of size with graceful proportions that is so marked in the Gothic architecture of the thirteenth century.

The polished inlaid marble floor reflects the forms and tints of vault and glass, while the gray walls make a neutral tone for the rich yet delicate coloring of the windows.

The chancel, by means of the steps, columns and vaulted roof, is divided into three portions. The first part devoted to the choir and organ; the stalls carved in oak with poppy

heads, those on the south wall canopied. The second portion, one step above the stalls, gives a spacious and dignified approach to the altar rail; in the north wall is the entrance to the sacristy. The third space contains the altar, credence, piscina, sedilia and bishop's chair.

The frieze on either side of the chancel is richly carved, on the north side with symbolic types of Christ from the Old Testament; their fulfillment being typically represented on the south side, in unison with the nativity and crucifixion windows, His birth, betrayal, death, burial and resurrection all leading the thought to His ascension, so beautifully depicted in the east window.

The north window is an exquisite presentation of the "Te Deum Laudamus."

The altar and reredos, twelve feet long and fourteen feet high, are carved from French Caen stone.

A new pulpit of Caen stone, with tracery and carvings correspondent to the elaborate work of the new structure, was also the gift of the donor of the chancel.

At the first service held after the completion of the new chancel, Sunday, January 24th, a memorial tablet of Caen stone, placed in the church by friends of Mr. Houston, was unveiled.

On St. Paul's Day, January 25th, 1897, the Right Rev. Ozi William Whitaker, D. D., assisted by a number of clergy, in the presence of a crowded church, consecrated the new chancel to the worship and service of Almighty God.

The prayer-books and hymnals for the sedilia in the new chancel, with the Bible for the lecturn, are memorial gifts by the Misses Bonnell.

The memorial windows in the former chancel were transferred to the west end of the church by the same kind friend, to the great improvement of the nave.

Mr. E. J. Moore gave, at the same time, a valuable suspended lamp for the pulpit, which corresponds acceptably with the one over the lecturn.

The following memorials have also been donated to the church:—

Eight hundred dollars were contributed by friends of the Rector and his wife, living in Brooklyn and New York, to furnish the original chancel, with the pulpit and font. The font cover was donated by a devoted communicant of the parish.

The Young Women's Chapter gave the Altar Service Book.

Mrs. Bedlock contributed two sets of altar linen, one for the parish and the other as a gift to the Rector.

The alms-chest by the tower door, and also the receiving basin now in use, by Mr. H. H. Kingston.

The alms-chest near the side entrance, by the Young Women's Chapter in memory of one of their number.

The smaller silver ewer, in use at Holy Communion for several years, was the gift of Mrs. Henry H. Kingston.

The silver box for communion bread was the gift of the Mother's Meeting Chapter.

The cut-glass cruet for cleansing the holy vessels, was donated by "The Little Sisters of the Church."

The embroidered altar cloths and falls, for the varied seasons, were the work of loving hands. The *first* white and purple sets were given to a western parish, and the green went to a church in the south. These have been renewed with handsome stoles and book-markers.

Brass side brackets were provided by the Young Women's Chapter and "Little Sisters of the Church" for the chancel, but since the alteration are doing excellent service in the Sunday-school room. The hymn tablets were an offering by the "Little Sisters of the Church."

The silver paten and chalice, with a silver-mounted ewer, in use at early celebrations, are loving memorials—the paten from the Young Women's Chapter, and the latter by Albert McNulty, Esq., of New York, a friend of the Rector.

When the new chancel was added, the old altar, pulpit and bishop's chair were sent to a new church for colored people in Asheville, N. C., and the choir stalls and chairs to St. Stephen Church, Wissahickon.

While preparing a history of the parish and recounting the varied changes which have occurred in its temporal affairs, we consider as of greater interest the spiritual bless-

ings wherewith the Lord hath blessed us. In this matter, however, results must be left with God. Spiritual seed has been sown, but the harvest-gathering is yet in the future. We can but recount baptisms, confirmations, services and number of communicants, at the same time relegating the inner life of the parish to His judgment who seeth not as man, the outward appearance, but also the heart. When St. Peter's Church was organized in 1873, the number of communicants was 185. As will appear in the following tabulated statement, additions, removals and deaths have caused a constant fluctuation in numbers, resulting at the present time in a communing membership of 533.

STATEMENT OF BAPTISMS, CONFIRMATIONS, COMMUNICANTS, MARRIAGES, BURIALS
AND SERVICES FROM 1874 TO 1897.

	BAPTISMS.			CONFIRMED.	COMMUNICANTS.						MARRIAGES AND BURIALS		SERVICES.		
	ADULTS.	INFANTS.	TOTAL.		RECEIVED.	ADDED NEW.	REMOVED.	DIED.	PRESENT NUMBER.	MARRIAGES.	BURIALS.	SUNDAYS.	WEEK-DAYS.	TOTAL.	
1874.....	4	14	18	21	185	18	...	7	196	3	4	52	71	123	
1875.....	4	37	41	22	14	25	...	17	218	9	17	115	143	258	
1876.....	7	26	33	27	23	35	...	24	252	12	24	113	151	264	
1877.....	10	33	43	34	16	32	...	34	266	5	9	124	143	267	
1878.....	3	16	19	13	16	13	18	6	271	6	15	116	148	264	
1879.....	3	22	25	25	7	28	20	6	280	4	12	118	156	274	
1880.....	7	41	48	16	9	18	15	6	286	5	11	118	166	284	
1881.....	4	30	34	22	12	23	9	6	306	10	19	114	188	302	
1882.....	6	29	35	21	11	16	14	2	317	7	9	112	191	303	
1883.....	6	19	25	22	21	25	24	4	335	9	16	120	183	303	
1884.....	6	21	27	17	11	15	9	5	347	8	24	127	194	321	
1885.....	3	34	37	13	28	15	19	6	365	7	21	131	169	300	
1886.....	10	31	41	46	6	45	21	7	388	4	20	133	187	320	
1887.....	4	22	26	12	16	16	13	7	400	4	10	132	186	318	
1888.....	4	26	30	16	14	18	13	10	409	9	18	135	184	319	
1889.....	4	43	47	23	30	25	25	5	434	4	18	132	186	318	
1890.....	9	53	62	38	31	34	20	8	471	7	13	136	202	338	
1891.....	2	37	39	17	23	20	35	7	472	12	16	159	230	389	
1892.....	5	57	62	24	24	29	25	7	493	10	32	159	231	390	
1893.....	2	26	28	20	19	20	30	6	496	11	20	166	233	399	
1894.....	5	38	43	28	23	26	12	4	529	12	17	163	237	400	
1895.....	2	41	43	17	10	20	1	4	554	11	17	164	240	404	
1896.....	6	30	36	23	37	23	31	21	562	6	26	162	242	404	
1897.....	5	48	53	22	6	23	*42	16	533	11	27	163	242	405	
TOTALS.....	121	774	895	539	592	562	396	225	533	186	415	3,164	4,503	7,667	

* Including names removed by revision of the list.

O ALMIGHTY God, who by thy Son Jesus Christ didst give to thy Apostle Saint Peter many excellent gifts, and commandedst him earnestly to feed thy flock; Make, we beseech thee, all Bishops and Pastors diligently to preach thy holy Word, and the people obediently to follow the same, that they may receive the crown of everlasting glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.—THE COLLECT—ST. PETER'S DAY.